Prediction of Water Crisis in Saurashtra and Kutch

†687. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts have pointed out that Saurashtra and Kutch can face severe water crunch in future;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any concrete scheme to increase water resources in these areas of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a), (d) and (e) As per study conducted by Central Water Commission in 1975-82, twelve districts in Gujarat are classified as drought prone, out of which six are in Saurashtra and Kutch region.

The National Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Agriculture has observed that due to deficient rains of South West monsoon during July—October, 2000, the State of Gujarat is one of the several States experiencing drought like conditions which may intensify in the summer months of the year 2001.

(b) and (c) Irrigation & drinking water schemes are formulated by the State Governments themselves and implemented and funded according to their own priorities. The Sardar Sarovar Project, now under implementation, is planned to provide irrigation to 17.92 lakh ha in the State of Gujarat. 75% of this area is drought prone. The project will also provide drinking water to 5825 villages and 100 towns in Kutch and Saurashtra.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.